Unions individually or from United Forum of Bank Unions. However, notice of strike has been received from the employees of LIC, GIC and its subsidiaries for going on a strike against the consideration and passing of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 (IRDA). This Bill has already been considered and passed by the Lok Sabha on 2nd December, 1999.

Spending of Central Budget

721. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 57 per cent of the budget was spent between April and August on the Centre's expenditure;

(b) the manner in which Government propose to manage its expenditure in the remaining 43 per cent in the remaining seven months; and

(c) what measures has Government taken to check the wasteful expenditure like use of photocopier machines for photocopying private documents in large quantities, use of photocopier paper for typing letters, purchase of stationery and other items at higher rates by Government offices from NCCP and so on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Central Government's expenditure upto August '99 is Rs. 1,01,754.69 crore. This is about 36% of the total budget estimates of Rs. 2,83,882.47 crore for the year 1999-2000. The expenditure flow is not uniform throughout the year. There are occasional variations in the spending pattern of various departments/ministries. Last year, expenditure for the corresponding period was also around 36% of the budget estimates for the year 1998-99.

(c) It is the responsibility of the Heads of various offices to ensure that office properties are not misused and that the prescribed rules/instructions and procedures are adhered to in the procurement of stationery items and other stores etc.